

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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"A Partner in Conservation Since 1935"

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Transmitted via Email

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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-6-9

SUBJECT: LTP – WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP).

Purpose. To distribute information relative to FY 2006 WHIP allocations and policy for accepting applications.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2006.

Minnesota's initial FY-06 financial assistance allocation is \$622,773 for producer contracts. I am recommending that each Area receive a 2006 WHIP allocation based on their historic use of WHIP funds. The break down of these funds, as a percentage of our state allocation, is as follows:

<u>Area</u>	<u>2006 WHIP Allocation</u>	<u>Base Funding Level</u>
1	10%	\$ 62,277
2	20%	\$ 124,555
3	20%	\$ 124,555
4	10%	\$ 62,277
5	10%	\$ 62,277
6	10%	\$ 62,277
7	20%	\$ 124,555

Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis. Those applications meeting a minimum ranking score of **120** points will be forwarded to the Area Office for review and final approval. The appropriate Assistant State Conservationist (FO) will determine how their area applications will be approved, and may, at their discretion, make county allocations in Protracts.

A revised Toolkit cost list has been developed and an amended WHIP Docket, Ranking Worksheet and "WHIP Application Checklist" (CPM, Part 517, Subpart MN517) has been distributed. Active 2005 backlog applications have been promoted to 2006 and will need to be updated using the 2006 WHIP cost list and the plans uploaded into Protracts.

Direct questions you may have regarding the 2006 WHIP program guidance to Mark Oja, State Biologist.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: ASTC (FO), ARC, FO